



US009325179B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Voytenko

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,325,179 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 26, 2016**

(54) **APPARATUS FOR GENERATING A VOLTAGE SURGE FROM LOW VOLTAGE BATTERIES THAT ARE CHARGED IN PARALLEL AND DISCHARGED IN SERIES**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 140 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **13/933,528**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 2, 2013**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H02J 7/00 (2006.01)
A61N 1/39 (2006.01)
A61N 1/378 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H02J 7/0024** (2013.01); **A61N 1/378** (2013.01); **A61N 1/3931** (2013.01); **A61N 1/3975** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H02J 7/0024
USPC 320/117
See application file for complete search history.

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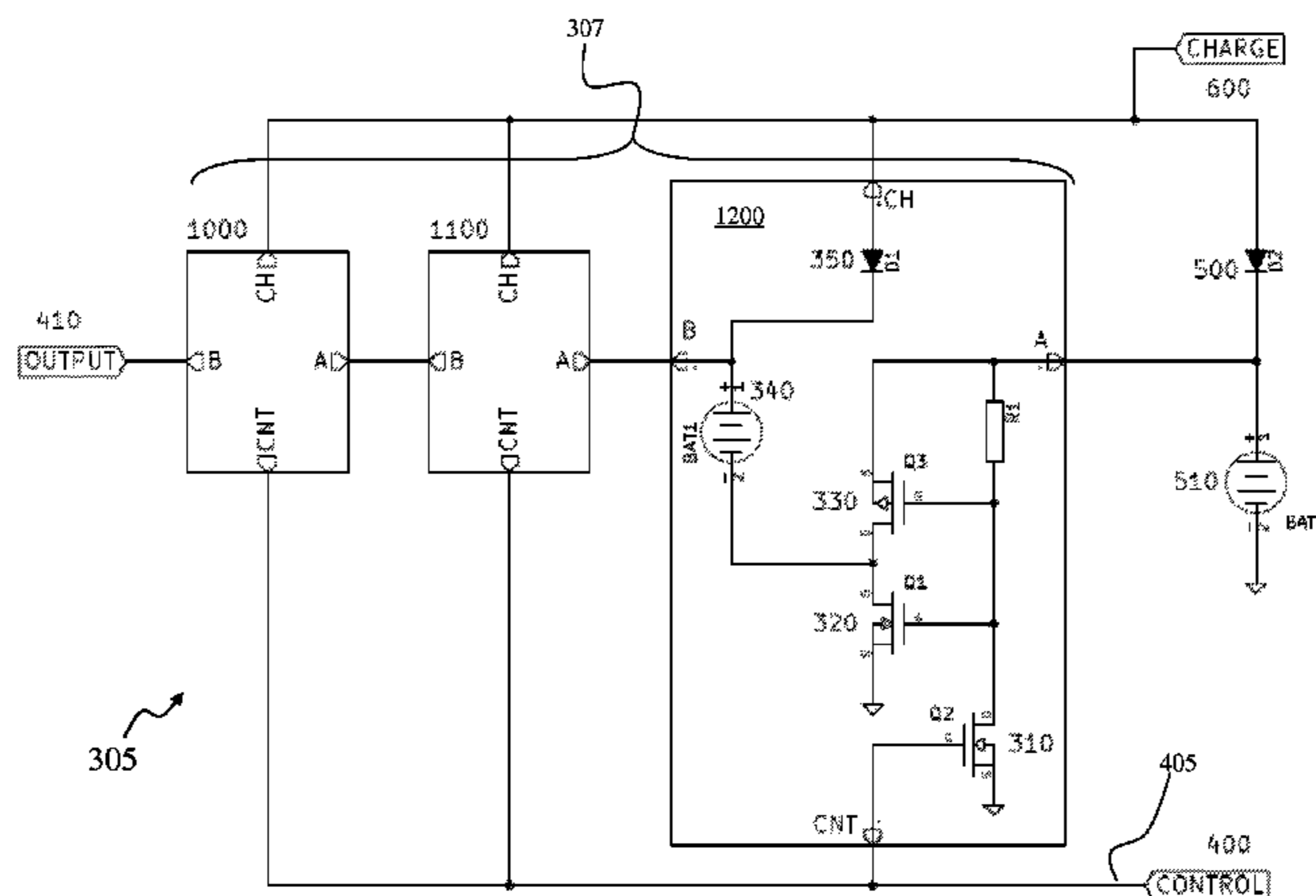
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus for generating a voltage surge which can be in the form of a voltage pulse. More specifically, the invention is an apparatus in which low voltage sources charge in parallel and discharge in series to generate a voltage sufficient to drive devices such as, but not limited to, a solenoid. The low voltage sources can be rechargeable batteries such as, but not limited to, 1.5 V or 9 V batteries or a combination of different voltage rechargeable batteries. The apparatus comprises one or more modules in which a battery is directed to charge in parallel but discharge in series. The switch-over from charging to discharging is by means of transistors in each module that cause the modules to discharge in unison thereby creating a voltage surge which can be in the form of a voltage pulse.

3 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



US 9,325,179 B1

Page 2

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TABLE 1	
part #	Description
100, 100a	circuit 100 and 100a, respectively
120	charger 120
140	output 140
160	diode D1
180	diode D2
200	module battery BT1 located in module 1000
220	non-module battery BT2
240	resistor R1
260	transistor Q1
280	transistor Q2
285	module 285
300	switch on/off 300
301	controller 301
304	adjustable pulse timer 304
305	circuit 305
307	module series 307
310	transistor Q2
320	transistor Q1
330	transistor Q3
340	battery BAT1
350	diode 350
400	control switch 400
405	line 405 leading from control switch 400
410	output 410
500	diode 500
510	non-module battery BAT2
1000	module 1000
1100	module 1100
1200	module 1200

FIG. 1

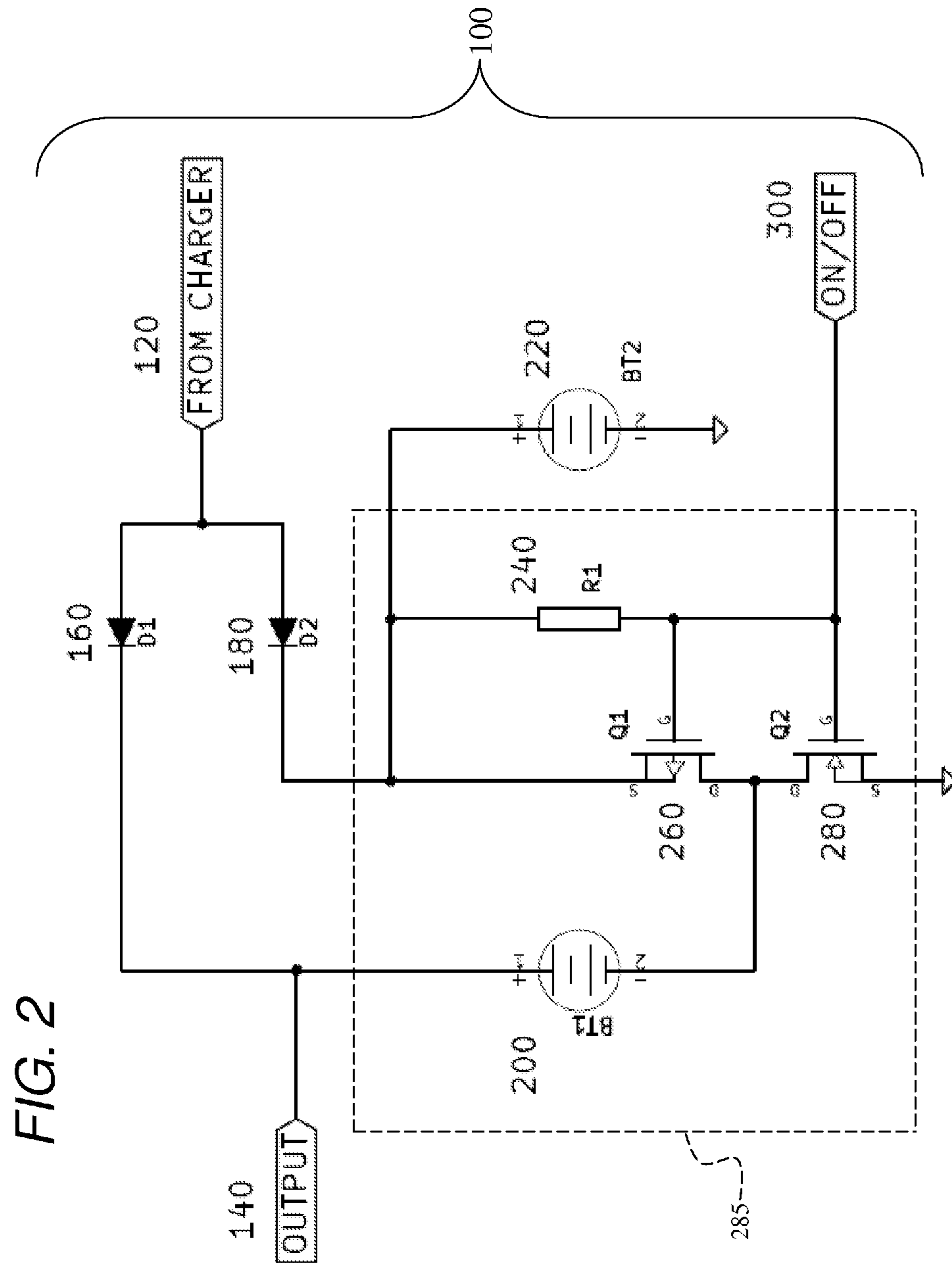


TABLE 2
(Circuit 100)

Switch 300	Transistor Q1 260	Transistor Q2 280	Battery BT1 200	Battery BT2 220	Comments
On	Closed (<i>i.e.</i> OFF)	Open (<i>i.e.</i> ON)	Charging via D1 and Q2	Charging via D2	Batteries BT1 and BT2 charging in parallel
Off	Open (<i>i.e.</i> ON)	Closed (<i>i.e.</i> OFF)	Discharging	Discharging	Batteries BT1 and BT2 are in series; voltage delivered to Output 140 is double that of a single battery's output; D1 ensures output is directed to Output 140

FIG. 3

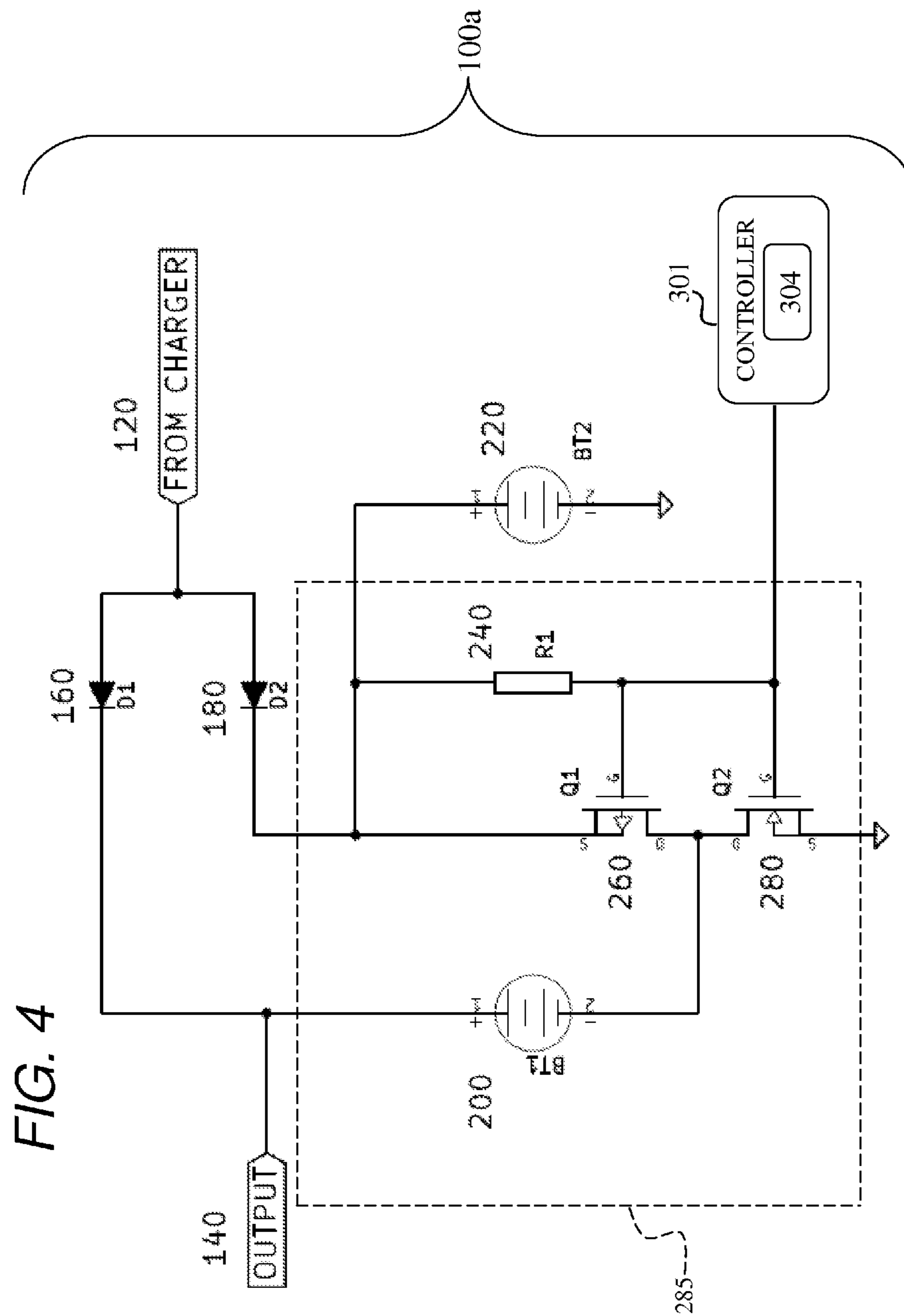
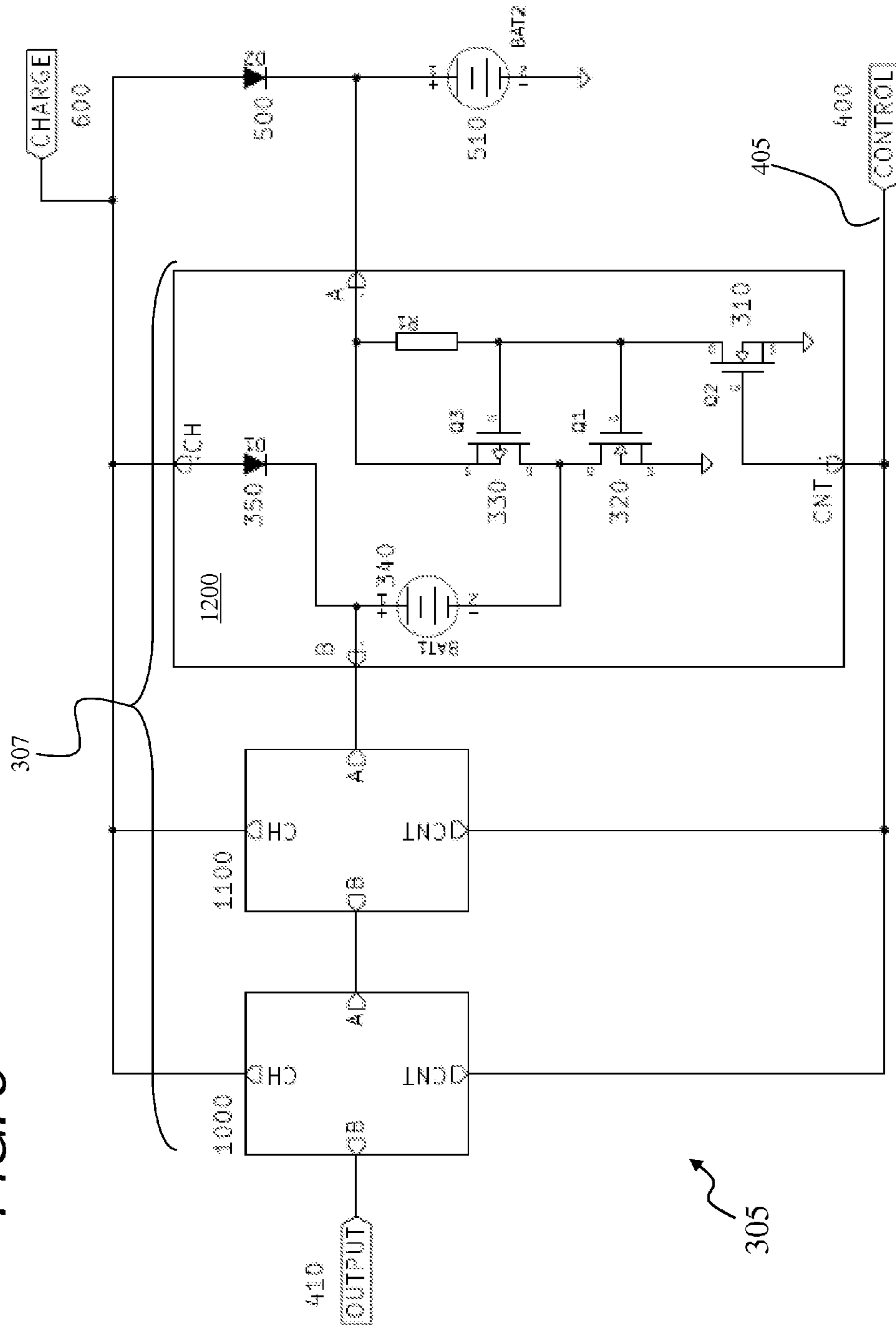


FIG. 4

FIG. 5



1

APPARATUS FOR GENERATING A VOLTAGE SURGE FROM LOW VOLTAGE BATTERIES THAT ARE CHARGED IN PARALLEL AND DISCHARGED IN SERIES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an apparatus for generating a voltage surge or pulse.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

U.S. Pat. No. 5,621,255 describes a Marx generator which includes a number of capacitors (E) connected in series via spark gaps (E), between two output terminals and a power supply circuit that charges the capacitors in parallel. The capacitors are connected in series by a flat line formed of two metal strips running parallel and facing one another. These strips are connected together electrically at one end of the line and respectively to the output terminals at the other end and consist of one continuous strip and a second strip subdivided by transverse slots into successive plane sections interconnected in series alternately by a capacitor and a surface spark gap.

United States Patent Application Number 20020180276 describes a simple and less expensive high voltage pulse generating circuit including a low voltage direct current voltage source having one output terminal connected to the other output terminal via a series circuit of a first switch with a low withstand voltage, an inductance storing a inductive energy and a second switch with a high withstand voltage, and a branch circuit including a free-wheel diode being connected between the other output terminal of the direct current voltage source and a common connection point between the first switch and the inductance. After storing inductive energy in the inductance by turning-on the first and second switches, these first and second switches are turned-off to commutate the energy stored in the inductance into a capacitive load connected across the second switch to charge the load abruptly and generate a high voltage pulse having a very narrow width without using a complicated and expensive magnetic compression circuit.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,628,122 describes a multistage Marx impulse generator circuit to which protective resistors are connected in series or in parallel with charging switches. The Ohmic value of the protective resistors is chosen so that in the case of premature flashover across a spark gap, the energy stored in the generator can be absorbed by the protective resistors.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An apparatus in the form of a circuit for generating a voltage surge or pulse. More specifically, the invention is an

2

apparatus in which low voltage sources charge in parallel and discharge in series to generate a voltage surge sufficient to drive devices such as, but not limited to, a solenoid. The low voltage sources can be batteries such as, but not limited to, 9 volt batteries.

The circuit comprises modules arranged in series thereby defining a module series. During normal operation the module series defaults to charge mode connected to a charger. In discharge mode the module series is in series with a non-module battery to produce a voltage surge which can be in the form of a voltage pulse.

Each module comprises a module circuit which in turn comprises a module battery and an arrangement of transistors; the transistors in each module enable fast switching between charging and discharging of the module's battery. In non-discharge mode each module battery is set on charge, but in switching to discharge mode the transistors in each module direct voltage from the module's battery to the next module in the module series and finally to the non-module battery to produce an output in the form of a voltage surge which can be in the form of a voltage pulse. The switch-over from charging to discharging is performed by the transistors in each module circuit. Each module circuit is operably connected to a switch which causes each module to discharge in unison thereby creating a voltage surge which can be in the form of a voltage pulse.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a table (Table 1) that lists reference numbers and their associated descriptions.

FIG. 2 shows a circuit, according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 shows a logic table, according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows a circuit, according to the present invention.

FIG. 5 shows a circuit, according to the present invention.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The invention is directed to an apparatus in which low voltage sources charge in parallel and discharge in series to generate, for example, a voltage sufficient to drive devices such as, but not limited to, a solenoid. The low voltage sources can be batteries such as, but not limited to, 9 volt batteries.

The invention comprises one or more modules in which a battery is directed to charge in parallel but discharge in series. The switch-over from charging to discharging is by means of transistors in each module that cause the modules to discharge in unison thereby creating a voltage surge or a pulse if, for example, a means for creating a voltage pulse is used such as an adjustable pulse timer. A summary of the component parts are listed in Table 1 (see FIG. 1).

FIG. 2 is a circuit 100 which demonstrates the general principles of the invention. The circuit 100 is made up of a charger 120, an output 140, first and second diodes D1 and D2 (labeled as 160 and 180, respectively), batteries BT1 and BT2 (labeled as 200 and 220, respectively), a resistor 240, first transistor Q1 and second transistor Q2 (labeled as 260 and 280, respectively), and switch 300. Table 2 (FIG. 3) is a logic table that describes the operation of circuit 100 according to the present invention. Parts 200, 240, 260, and 280 make up a module 285 (shown as dashed-lines in FIG. 2). The circuit 100 can include a series of like modules to provide a desired voltage surge at output 140.

3

The switch **300** can be replaced by a controller **301** which includes an adjustable pulse timer **304** (see circuit **100a** shown in FIG. **4**). The terms “control” and “controller” are, for the purposes of this patent disclosure regarded as equivalent terms.

In one embodiment of the invention a circuit is provided having a plurality of modules in parallel branches but also coupled in series thereby defining a module series; a non-module battery is located in series with the module series. During normal operation the non-module battery and the modules that make up the module series default to charge mode. In discharge mode the module series is in series with the non-module battery to produce a voltage surge which can be in the form of a voltage pulse.

Each module comprises a module circuit which in turn comprises a module battery and an arrangement of transistors; the transistors in each module enable fast switching between charging and discharging of the module’s battery. In non-discharge mode each the non-module battery and each module battery is set on charge, but in switching to discharge mode the non-module battery and module batteries in the module series act as a series of batteries directing a surge voltage to an output. The switch-over from charging to discharging is performed by the transistors in each module circuit. The non-module battery and module batteries discharge in unison and thereby generate a voltage surge.

FIG. **5** shows a multi-modular circuit **305** for quadruple voltage output during ON state according to the invention. The circuit **305** comprises a plurality of modules **1000**, **1100**, and **1200** (labeled collectively as module series **307**); the modules form parallel branches with respect to each other. The modules are also coupled in series for transferring voltage from one module to the next in the series **307** in the direction of the output **410**. The internal schematic for module **1200** is shown; the internal schematic of modules **1000** and **1100** being the same as module **1200**; further descriptions of the components found in circuit **305** is found in Table **1** (FIG. **1**).

With respect to voltage delivery to output **410** modules **1000** and **1200** define nearest and furthest opposite ends of the module series **307**, wherein module **1000** is electrically coupled to output **410**, and module **1200** is electrically coupled to non-module battery BAT2 at **510**. During discharge, voltage from non-module battery BAT2 at **510** is delivered to module **1200** via transistor Q3 at **330**; the voltage from BAT2 at **510** is added to the voltage of the modules in the module series **307** and thence directed to output **410**. It should be understood that circuit **305** ensures that the batteries in module series **307** and the non-modular battery BAT2 at **510** discharge in unison in response to inputs from control **400** to send a voltage surge to output **410**.

While only three modules **1000**, **1100**, and **1200** are shown in circuit **305** it should be understood that the number of modules can be any number to achieve a desired voltage output at **410**. The circuit **305** is significantly and patently distinct from prior art apparatus and methods that typically rely on capacitors such as those described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,628,122.

The circuit **305** has two states; an OFF state and an ON state which is set by adjusting control **400**. In the OFF state the voltage output equals the voltage of the single battery BAT2 at **510** in circuit **305**. In the ON state the output voltage (V_{out}) when the voltage of each battery in the modules **1000**, **1100**, and **1200** in circuit **305** is equal to V_{510} , where V_{510} is the voltage of battery BAT2 at **510**, whereupon V_{out} is:

4

$$V_{out}=V_{510}*(\text{number of modules}+1) \quad \text{Eq(i)}$$

$$\text{Otherwise } V_{out}=V_{510}+V_{1000}+V_{1100}+V_{1200} \quad \text{Eq(ii)}$$

$$\text{In general: } V_{out}=V_{510}+V_1+V_2+V_3 \dots +V_n \quad \text{Eq(iii)}$$

Where in Eq(iii), n =the voltage of the last module in the series $V_1, V_2 \dots V_n$

In more detail, in the OFF state the control line **405** voltage is LOW; transistor Q2 at **310** is OFF; transistor Q1 at **320** is ON; transistor Q3 at **330** is OFF. The battery BAT1 at **340** is charging from charge source **600** via diode D1 (**350**) and transistor Q1 (**320**) and thence to ground; each battery in the modules **1000** and **1100** are also charging. The main battery BAT2 at **510** is also being charged from charge source **600** via diode D2 (**500**).

In the ON state the control line **405** voltage is HIGH; transistor Q2 at **310** is ON; transistor Q1 at **320** is OFF; transistor Q3 at **330** is ON. The battery BAT1 at **340** is now connected between terminals A and B (and thence to the modular battery, not shown, in module **1100**) and also connected in series with BAT2 at **510**. The battery in module **1100** is also connected to the battery in module **1000**, thus the non-modular battery **510** and all the modular batteries are connected in series with output **410**. Thus, all of the batteries are connected in series. The output voltage at **410** for circuit **305** (FIG. **5**) is four times that of the voltage of the single battery BAT2 at **510** (assuming the voltage of the batteries in modules **1000**, **1100** and **1200** are the same and equal to BAT2 at **510** otherwise Equation (ii) applies. While three modules **1000**, **1100**, and **1200** are shown in circuit **305** it should be understood that the number of modules can be any number to achieve a desired voltage output at **410**.

The invention being thus described, it will be evident that the same may be varied in many ways by a routinier in the applicable arts. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A circuit for generating a voltage surge from two or more low voltage sources, comprising:
 - a non-module battery;
 - a plurality of modules, each module comprising at least one module battery and one respective module circuit, wherein the module circuit is configured to accept control inputs to put the module battery in either a charging state or a discharging state by closing or opening, respectively, a path to ground from the negative terminal of the module battery, and wherein the module circuit does not affect a path to ground from the negative terminal of the non-module battery, and further wherein the plurality of modules and non-module battery are arranged to receive a charging current in parallel, and are further arranged to discharge a discharging current in series upon operation of the respective circuits;
 - a controller configured to generate a control signal to operate the respective plurality of circuits to switch the non-module battery and plurality of module batteries between a charging state in which charging current is received in parallel, and a discharging state in which discharging current is provided in series; and
 - an output configured to provide the discharging current, and wherein each of the respective module circuits comprise—
 - a module circuit input connected to a first end of a first resistor,

5

a first diode attached at an anode end to a source of charging current and at a cathode end to a positive terminal of the module battery,

a first transistor comprising a first transistor gate connected to the control signal, a first transistor source connected to ground, and a first transistor drain connected to a second end of the first resistor,

a second transistor comprising a second transistor gate connected to the second end of the first resistor and the first transistor drain, a second transistor source connected to ground, and a second transistor drain connected to a negative terminal of the module battery,

a third transistor comprising a third transistor gate connected to the second end of the first resistor and the first transistor drain, a third transistor source connected to the module circuit input, and a third transistor drain connected to both the second transistor drain and negative terminal of the module battery, and

6

a module circuit output connected to the cathode end of the first diode and positive terminal of the module battery.

2. The circuit according to claim 1 further comprising:

a charger configured to provide the charging current to each of the plurality of module batteries and non-module battery.

3. The circuit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second diode connected in series between the charging source and the positive terminal of the non-modular battery, wherein the second diode is connected to allow charging current to flow from the charging source to the positive terminal of the non-modular batteries, and to prevent discharge current from the non-modular battery from charging the charging source.

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